What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for determining regression or progression of cancer in a patient previously diagnosed with cancer, the method comprising assaying a sample of the patient previously diagnosed with cancer for current level of expression of a nucleic acid molecule which encodes Sp17, and comparing the current level of expression to a prior level of expression of Sp17 in the patient, variation therebetween indicating progression or regression of the cancer.

2. A method for generating Sp-17-specific immune effector cells ex vivo comprising:

pulsing antigen presenting cells with recombinant Sp-17 or antigenic portions thereof; and

contacting the pulsed antigen presenting cells with immune effector cells for a time sufficient to stimulate Sp-17-reactive immune effector cells under conditions permissive for proliferation of Sp17-reactive immune effector cells, whereby Sp17-specific immune effector cells are thereby generated.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the antigen presenting cells are dendritic cells.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein the immune effector cells are cytotoxic T lymphocytes.

5. Ex vivo antigen presenting cells that present Sp-17 antigens for class I MHC, wherein the antigen presenting cells have had recombinant Sp17 or antigenic portions thereof introduced into them in a manner effective to antigenically present the Sp-17 antigen for

class I MHC.

6. An isolated cytotoxic T cell line which specifically recognizes Sp-17.

7. A method of treating a subject suffering from cancer characterized by cells having Sp17 on the cell surface, which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of the cytotoxic T cell line of claim 6.

8. A method of diagnosing cancer in a subject, the method comprising:

obtaining a test sample from a subject and determining level of expression of a nucleic acid molecule which encodes Sp17 in the test sample; and

comparing the level of expression to level of expression of Sp17 in a control sample from another subject known not to have cancer;

wherein a greater level of expression in the test sample as compared to the level of expression in the control sample is diagnostic of cancer.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the level of expression is determined using an antibody specifically immunoreactive with Sp17.

10. An immunoconjugate comprising an Sp-17 antigen-binding agent and a therapeutic agent.

11. The immunoconjugate of claim 10 wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of an anti-tumor agent, a cytotoxin, a radioactive agent, an antibody, and an enzyme.

12. The immunoconjugate of claim 10 wherein the Sp-17 antigen-binding agent is provided as a monoclonal antibody specifically immunoreactive with Sp-17.

13. A method of treating a subject suffering from cancer characterized by cells having Sp17 on the cell surface, which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of the immunoconjugate of claim 10 such that the immunoconjugate binds to the Sp17 on the cells' surface via the Sp-17 antigen-binding agent and the therapeutic agent kills the cells, thereby treating the subject.

14. A method for selectively killing tumor cells expressing Sp-17, comprising reacting the immunoconjugate of claim 10 with the tumor cells.

15. A method for imaging cancer cells characterized by having Sp-17 on the cell surface, comprising administering to a patient a detectably labeled Sp-17 antigen-binding agent in an amount effective for binding to Sp-17 present on cells in the patient, and detecting the bound detectably labeled Sp-17 antigen-binding agent, thereby imaging the cancer cells characterized by having Sp-17 on the cell surface.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the detectably labeled Sp-17 antigen-binding agent is a labeled monoclonal antibody specifically immunoreactive with Sp-17.